

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

■ **Limagrain Hires Jean-Bruno Beaufumé and Jeron Chatelain** **Seasoned staff brings wheat breeding expertise to Pacific Northwest region**

WAITSBURG, Wash., Jan. 8, 2012 - Two wheat breeding experts will add their experience to the Washington state offices of Limagrain Cereal Seeds, the North American subsidiary of farmer-owned seed company Group Limagrain. Wheat breeder Jean-Bruno Beaufumé will relocate to the Pacific Northwest region from France, while Washington State University graduate Jeron Chatelain has been recently hired as a research associate.

“Jean-Bruno has been designing and developing wheat breeding programs for nearly 20 years, and brings with him myriad leadership qualities that have contributed to Limagrain’s success. Jeron grew up on a dryland wheat farm in eastern Washington; his education and experience gained in the region are unparalleled,” said Frank Curtis, Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer for Limagrain Cereal Seeds. “Together, these two will add considerable depth and breadth of knowledge to the Limagrain Cereal Seeds Pacific Northwest team, and we are fortunate to have them both on board.”

Beaufumé, who has been employed by Group Limagrain as a wheat breeder for more than a decade, set up the Northern France wheat breeding program for Limagrain Europe. He has been a part of several public/private research project committees, served as a member of the French official wheat and small grains varieties registration commission, and has managed numerous testing, research station and wheat breeding teams throughout his career. He is a graduate of Ecole National Supérieure Agronomique de Rennes, with a Master of Science degree in genetics and plant breeding. His family relocated to the U.S. in anticipation of his new role, and Beaufumé said all are “very excited to discover a new country and a new culture.” Beaufumé is an avid outdoor sports enthusiast who enjoys participating in activities ranging from badminton to triathlons.

Chatelain received his Master of Science degree in Crop Science with an emphasis in wheat breeding from Washington State University and served as a research assistant in the university’s wheat breeding department. He was most recently employed as a faculty research assistant for Oregon State University at the Columbia Basin Agricultural Research Center. He cites his combined genetics education and farming background as a valuable asset, giving him perspective from both sides of the process of harvesting healthy crops. Chatelain still helps out occasionally on the family farm and cattle ranch, and enjoys camping, hiking and participating in other sporting activities.

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Group Limagrain was founded in France in 1942. The farmer-owned company has 7,000 employees and is the largest seed company in the European Union. Fort Collins, Colorado, serves as the North American headquarters of Limagrain Cereal Seeds, the newest subsidiary of Group Limagrain. LCS has regional research stations in Washington, Indiana, Minnesota and Kansas. Visit www.limagraincerealseeds.com.

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